

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DRC-01 SAJ-01 IO-13 NIC-01 PM-07 NSC-10

SPC-03 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00

PRS-01 /078 W

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R 261207Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6909

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HAW

USSAG NAKHON PHANOM THAILAND

S E C R E T BANGKOK 15093

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, TH

SUBJ: THANOM CONCERN FOR FUTURE OF INDOCHINA

1. PRIME MINISTER THANOM TOOK ADVANTAGE OF FAREWELL CALL BY GEN. VOGT SEPT 26 TO QUESTION HIM CLOSELY ABOUT HIS IMPRESSIONS OF NEAR TERM PROSPECTS FOR GKR SURVIVAL INCLUDING SPECIFIC QUERIES ABOUT LON NOL'S HEALTH, THE COOPERATION AMONG THE GKR LEADERS, FANK PERFORMANCE SINCE THE END OF THE US BOMBING, AND THE VIABILITY OF PHNOM PENH LINES OF COMMUNICATION. HE WAS CLEARLY HEARTENED BY GEN VOGT'S FULL AND FRANK EXPOSITON OF HIS PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS AND THE SPECIFIC STEPS THE US HAD TAKEN TO SUPPORT THE GKR SINCE AUGUST 15. WHILE INDICATING THAT MANY PROBLEMS REMAIN, GEN VOGT CONCLUDED BY FORECASTING GOOD CHANCES FOR GKR SURVIVAL PROVIDED THEY USE THE TIME BETWEEN NOW AND THE BEGINNING OF THE DRY SEASON TO RECRUIT AND TRAIN ESSENTIAL MANPOWER RE-PLACEMENTS.

2. GEN VOGT ALSO CONVEYED ON BEHALF OF MARSHAL LON NOL HIS PERSONAL REGARDS AND THANKS TO THE RTG FOR THE CONTINUING

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SUPPORT. LON NOL HAD TOLD GEN VOGT HE CONSIDERED IT

ESSENTIAL THAT THE NON-COMMUNIST STATES OF INDOCHINA AND THAILAND DEVELOP CLOSER RELATIONS AND THAT HE WOULD SOON BE WRITING TO THANOM ON THIS SUBJECT.

3. THANOM REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM REGARDING COMMUNIST COMPLIANCE WITH THE CEASE FIRE AGREEMENTS IN INDOCHINA, STATING SPECIFICALLY THAT HE BELIEVED THAT NORTH VIETNAMESE INTENTIONS HAVE NOT CHANGED. THANOM SAID HE BELIEVES THE NVA WILL NOT LEAVE LAOS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RECENT PROTOCOL AND ALSO THAT THE COMMUNISTS WILL BREAK THE AGREEMENT IN SOUTH VIETNAM DURING THE NEXT DRY SEASON.

4. GEN VOGT USED THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A PERSUASIVE PRESENTATION OF THE DETERRENT EFFECT OF THE PRESENCE OF THE US AIR POWER IN THAILAND AND THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING THE CAPABILITY FOR QUICK RETALIATION AGAINST NORTH VIETNAMESE INITIATIVES.

5. PRIME MINISTER THANOM CONGRATULATED GEN VOGT FOR HIS CONTRIBUTION TO CONTAINMENT OF COMMUNIST AMBITIONS IN INDOCHINA. IN THIS CONNECTION HE ALSO NOTED, IN RESPONSE TO GEN VOGT'S APPRECIATION FOR THAI COOPERATION, THAT THE AMERICAN AIRMEN UNDER GEN VOGT'S COMMAND SHOULD BE COMMENDED FOR THEIR GOOD BEHAVIOR IN THAILAND.

6. PRIME MINISTER THANOM'S CORDIAL RECEPTION OF GEN VOGT'S FAREWELL CALL AND HIS FORTHCOMING REMARKS ON THE OCCASION CONFIRM HIS PERSONAL APPRECIATION FOR THE ROLE OF USSAG/7TH AIR FORCE IN PROTECTING THAI SECURITY. GEN VOGT HAS HANDLED HIS COMMAND RELATIONSHIPS IN THAILAND IN A WAY PERFECTLY SUITED TO MEET CONFLICTING RTG CONCERNS WITH NATIONAL SECURITY AND INDEPENDENCE. THE EMBASSY LIKE THE RTG LEADERSHIP LOOKS FORWARD TO CONTINUING CLOSE RELATIONS WITH GEN VOGT AFTER HE ASSUMES THE PACAF COMMAND.

MASTERS

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